



FACT SHEET

Reducing Climate Change Emissions From Motor Vehicles

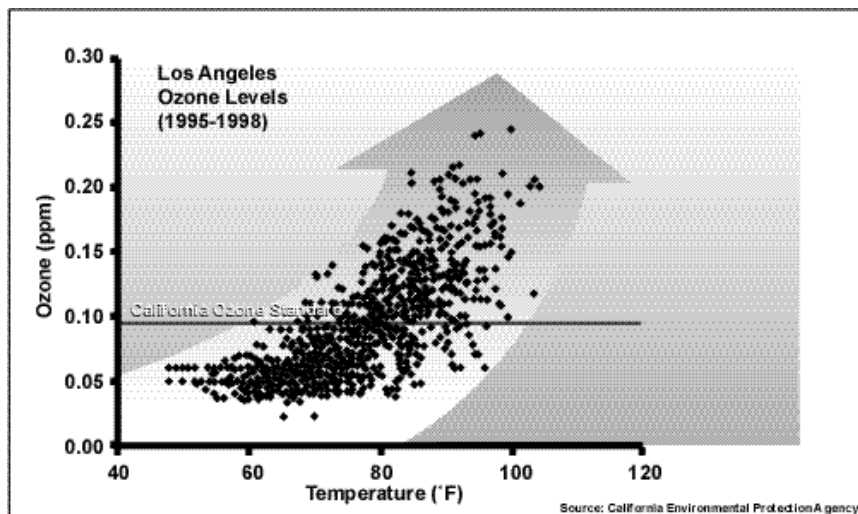
Introduction:

On July 22, 2002, Governor Davis signed AB 1493 – landmark legislation to combat climate change. This bill requires the California Air Resources Board (ARB) to develop and adopt regulations that reduce greenhouse gases emitted by passenger vehicles and light duty trucks. Transportation is California's largest source of carbon dioxide, with passenger vehicles and light duty trucks creating more than 30 percent of total climate change emissions. Due to advances in vehicle technology, it is now possible to reduce such emissions without sacrificing performance or other desirable vehicle attributes.

Background:

Greenhouse Effect -The natural "greenhouse effect" allows the earth to remain warm and sustain life. Greenhouse gases trap the sun's heat in the atmosphere, like a blanket, and help determine our climate. The amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is being drastically altered by human activity.

Climate Change - The onset of the industrial revolution and the increased consumption of fossil fuels (wood, coal, gasoline, etc.) has substantially increased atmospheric levels of greenhouse gases. As atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases (examples include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and hydrofluorocarbons) rise, so do temperatures. Over time this rise in temperatures results in climate change.



**Hotter Days
Lead to
Higher
Emissions
and More
Smog**

Impacts on California - Climate change affects public health and the environment. Higher temperatures result in more emissions, increased smog, respiratory disease and heat-related illness. Examples of other impacts include a reduction in the state's water supply due to reduced snowpack, extensive coastal damage due to sea level rise, and changes in vegetation and crop patterns.

Implementation

General Requirements - The California Air Resources Board is required to adopt regulations that achieve the maximum feasible and cost-effective reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles. The regulations must be adopted by January 1, 2005, and may not take effect prior to January 1, 2006. They will apply to 2009 and later model year vehicles.

Factors to be Considered - In developing regulations, the ARB will carefully consider technical feasibility and the impact of the proposal on the economy of the state. The Board will provide flexibility to the maximum extent feasible as to how auto manufacturers may comply with the regulations. Public workshops will be held in communities with significant exposure to air contaminants, including those with minority or low-income populations.

Preservation of Consumer Choice - Californians will continue to be able to purchase and drive their vehicle of choice. The bill clearly prohibits:

- New fees or taxes on vehicles, fuel or miles traveled
- A ban on the sale of any vehicle category
- A required reduction in vehicle weight
- A limitation or reduction in the speed limit or
- A limitation or reduction in vehicle miles traveled

Modern vehicle technology can reduce climate change emissions without changing the look, feel or performance that owners have come to expect.

Regulatory Approach

Sound Technical Information - The regulation will follow the ARB's standard regulatory development process, which makes use of the best available technical information. The ARB will work closely with all interested parties including auto manufacturers, environmental groups and other outside experts. Thorough technical evaluations will be prepared and discussed in open public workshops. The California Energy Commission, the California Climate Action Registry and other interested organizations will also be partners in this effort.

Stakeholder Involvement - Emission inventory workshops will be held to help establish baseline emission levels. Information from an in-depth international vehicle technology symposium featuring the world's leading experts will be used to better understand what improvements can be achieved with off-the-shelf and emerging vehicle technologies. Public workshops dealing with possible social, economic and environmental impacts of climate change and the regulation will also be held. The Board will adopt the regulations at a public meeting with full opportunity for public review and comment.

For More Information:

Call our Public Information Office at (916) 322-2990 or visit our website at www.arb.ca.gov